

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB2005/050426

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
G06F19/00 G06F17/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, BIOSIS, PAJ, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 01/99043 A (CORRELOGIC SYSTEMS, INC) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) page 3, line 23 - page 6, line 17 page 7, line 4 - page 8, line 3 page 9, line 16 - page 11, line 23 page 12, line 6 - line 10 page 12, line 16 - page 14, line 25 page 17, line 1 - page 18, line 5</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 December 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/01/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Barba, M

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WAI-HO AU ET AL: "A novel evolutionary data mining algorithm with applications to churn prediction" IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON EVOLUTIONARY COMPUTATION IEEE USA, vol. 7, no. 6, December 2003 (2003-12), pages 532-545, XP002359836 ISSN: 1089-778X page 535, right-hand column, line 22 - page 533, left-hand column, line 9 page 534, right-hand column, line 1 - page 536, right-hand column, line 23 page 536, right-hand column, line 25 - page 537, right-hand column, line 15 page 538, left-hand column, line 7 - right-hand column, line 23</p> <p>-----</p>	1-20
A	<p>LEMMON ALAN R ET AL: "The metapopulation genetic algorithm: An efficient solution for the problem of large phylogeny estimation" PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, vol. 99, no. 16, 6 August 2002 (2002-08-06), pages 10516-10521, XP002359837 ISSN: 0027-8424 page 10517, right-hand column, line 14 - page 10519, left-hand column, line 34 page 10520, right-hand column, line 8 - page 10521, right-hand column, line 20</p> <p>-----</p>	1-20
A	<p>CHTOUI YOUNES ET AL: "Feature selection by a genetic algorithm. Application to seed discrimination by artificial vision" JOURNAL OF THE SCIENCE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, vol. 76, no. 1, January 1998 (1998-01), pages 77-86, XP002359838 ISSN: 0022-5142 page 78, left-hand column, line 32 - right-hand column, line 24 page 78, right-hand column, line 37 - page 80, left-hand column, line 8 page 80, right-hand column, line 17 - page 84, right-hand column, line 5</p> <p>-----</p>	1-20
A	<p>EP 1 296 281 A (TRW INC) 26 March 2003 (2003-03-26) page 3, line 35 - line 47 page 4, line 1 - page 9, line 55</p> <p>-----</p>	1-20
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>BANDYOPADHYAY S ET AL: "Incorporating chromosome differentiation in genetic algorithms" INFORMATION SCIENCES ELSEVIER USA, vol. 104, no. 3-4, February 1998 (1998-02), pages 293-319, XP002359839 ISSN: 0020-0255 page 294, line 7 - page 295, line 12 page 296, line 8 - page 298, line 15 page 299, line 34 - page 306, line 8 page 307, line 7 - line 23 page 313, line 8 - page 316, line 13</p> <p>-----</p>	1-20

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 21-25 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 21-25

With regard to the subject matter of present independent claim 21 the following comments are herein under submitted.

The wording of present independent claim 21, when considered as a whole, is vague and obscure to such an extent that no clear and unambiguous technical meaning can be directly or indirectly derived from it. Also when making reference to the present description no passages could be found that might suggest or guide to a possible interpretation or understanding of the extent of the scope of the subject matter intended to be claimed.

Therefore, the subject matter of independent claim 21 lacks clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT to such an extent as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible to be carried out in the sense set out in Article 17 (2)(a)(ii) PCT.

The same comments as above are valid in their entirety also for the subject matter of dependent claims 22 to 25

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0199043	A 27-12-2001	AU	6987701 A	02-01-2002
		BR	0111742 A	03-02-2004
		CA	2411906 A1	27-12-2001
		CN	1446344 A	01-10-2003
		EP	1292912 A1	19-03-2003
		JP	2003536179 T	02-12-2003
		NO	20026087 A	13-02-2003
		NZ	522859 A	26-08-2005
		ZA	200209845 A	21-10-2003
EP 1296281	A 26-03-2003	JP	2003141500 A	16-05-2003
		US	2003074336 A1	17-04-2003